

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAILED

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

FEB 17 2006

PAT. & T.M. OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte MATTHEW VACEK and GEORGE B. GRIFFITH

Application No. 09/883,790

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on January 9, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

The appendix of the appeal brief filed on April 8, 2004, contains underlining and brackets in the claims (see claims 5, 6, and 8). The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 1206 requires the appendix of claims to be a clean copy, without underlines and brackets. Therefore, the appendix of the appeal brief is defective.

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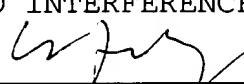
Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that this application be returned to the examiner to notify appellants that the appendix to the appeal brief filed April 8, 2004, is defective and request that appellants submit a corrected copy of the claims on appeal or that the examiner submit an appendix containing a corrected copy of the claims on appeal and; for such further action as may be appropriate.

It is important that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences be informed promptly of any action affecting the status of this appeal (i.e., abandonment, issue, reopening prosecution).

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

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